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Discovering Florida: First-Contact Narratives from Spanish Expeditions along the Lower Gulf Coast (Florida Museum of Natural History: Ripley P. Bullen Series)

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“Gives voice to a period in U.S. history that remains virtually unknown, even to specialists in the field.”—J. Michael Francis, coauthor of *Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida*

“With these transcriptions and translations, Worth provides an important service to ethnohistorians, archaeologists, and others who share an interest in the Spanish colonial explorations of the greater Southeast.”—Mariah F. Wade, author of *Missions, Missionaries, and Native Americans*

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Florida’s lower gulf coast was a key region in the early European exploration of North America, with an extraordinary number of first-time interactions between Spaniards and Florida’s indigenous cultures. *Discovering Florida* compiles all the major writings of Spanish explorers in the area between 1513 and 1566.

Including transcriptions of the original Spanish documents as well as English translations, this volume presents—in their own words—the experiences and reactions of Spaniards who came to Florida with Juan Ponce de León, Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando de Soto, and Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. These accounts, which have never before appeared together in print, provide an astonishing glimpse into a world of indigenous cultures that did not survive colonization. With introductions to the primary sources, extensive notes, and a historical overview of Spanish exploration in the region, this book offers an unprecedented firsthand view of La Florida in the earliest stages of European conquest.

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